

HOUSE RESOLUTION 154

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend the Whitehaven Branch Library during Women's History Month.

WHEREAS, in February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8, 1980, as National Women's History Week, and since 1995, each president has issued an annual proclamation designating the month of March as Women's History Month; and

WHEREAS, each March, we commemorate and encourage the study, observance, and celebration of the vital role women have played and continue to play in American society; to this end, it is fitting that we recognize those Tennessee institutions that owe a debt of gratitude to the pioneering efforts and devoted service of women; and

WHEREAS, the Whitehaven Branch Library in Memphis was founded by a group of trailblazing women who stood on corners in Whitehaven with cans to raise money to build a community library; the land, building, books, and furnishings of the original library were all made possible through donated funds, supplies, building materials, and labor, all of which were organized by the women of the community; and

WHEREAS, the Whitehaven Branch Library was originally located at the corner of Raines Road and Barton Street and served the community well until a new edifice, located at the corner of Raines Road and Millbranch Road, was completed; and

WHEREAS, currently under the leadership of Manager Robin Ballard and Director Keenon McCloy, the library continues to serve the Whitehaven community through free programs for children, teens, and adults, ranging from basic reading, fine arts, and STEM programs to those that focus on Spanish language and electronics; and

WHEREAS, the Whitehaven Branch Library provides meeting spaces and support, connecting neighborhood schools, churches, businesses, and citizens and offering invaluable resources that serve to improve the educational, spiritual, and physical well-being of patrons, as well as to teach invaluable life skills and instill a sense of civic responsibility; and

WHEREAS, Whitehaven Branch Library is vital in the promotion of literacy in this State and is most worthy of our approbation at this time; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we recognize and commend the Whitehaven Branch Library during Women's History Month, honoring the contributions of the women responsible for its founding and extending our best wishes for the successful continuation of their important legacy through the success of the Whitehaven Branch Library.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.